

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 are pending in the application. Claims 1-30 stand rejected. Claims 1, 6-9, 11-12, 14-17, 19, 21, 23-26 and 29-30 have been amended. At least in light of the above amendments and the foregoing remarks, reconsideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Drawing Objection

During an August 4, 2006 telephone meeting between Attorney Michael Cofield, Examiner Billgrami and Examiner Pwu the Examiners indicated that the drawing objection as withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1, 7, 15, 17, 23, 24, 25 and 26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph based on best mode.

During the August 4, 2006 telephone meeting between Attorney Michael Cofield, Examiner Billgrami and Examiner Pwu the best mode rejection was discussed with reference to FIGS. 2 and 3. The Examiners agreed to withdraw the rejection.

The May 19, 2006 Office Action (page 3) could be read to imply a finding by the Patent Office that Applicant intentionally concealed a best mode of operation. As a result, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to affirmatively clarify on the record that there is no evidence of Applicant concealing from the Patent Office, intentionally or otherwise, any information about the invention including any best mode of operation.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-30 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over previously cited art, I'Anson, et al. and U.S. Patent No. 6,693,893 (Ehlinger).

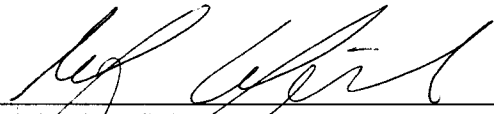
During the August 4, 2006 telephone meeting, Attorney Michael Cofield and Examiners Billgrami and Pwu agreed on a claim amendment to claim 1 that overcomes the I'Anson and Ehlinger references. Thus, claim 1 should be allowed. Claims 2-6 are dependent and should also be allowed. Claims 7-30 should be allowed for similar reasons.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-30 of the application as amended is solicited. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

Respectfully submitted,

MARGER JOHNSON & McCOLLOM, P.C.



Michael Cofield
Reg. No. 54,630

MARGER JOHNSON & McCOLLOM, P.C.
210 SW Morrison Street, Suite 400
Portland, OR 97204
503-222-3613
Customer No. 20575